

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

THE MASON AND SLIDELL AFFAIR.

The Effect of the Recent European News on the President and Secretary Seward.

INTERESTING CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

Adoption of Mr. Sumner's Resolution Prohibiting the Surrender of Slaves by the Army.

The House Scheme of Confiscation and Colonization.

Passage of a Bill for the Payment of Gen. Fremont's Forces.

The Homestead Bill Again Killed Off.

The Slidell and Mason Affair and the News from Europe.

At eleven o'clock tonight neither the President nor Secretary Seward had received any despatches from England. The messages reported to be on the way from Boston did not arrive. A report reached here this afternoon that a railroad accident between Boston and New York had occurred. It is said that the train was derailed. It is also said that the train was derailed. It is also said that the train was derailed.

Very little excitement exists here in regard to the Mason and Slidell affair. The President and Secretary of State are less disturbed about that question than many others are here. They believe it will be soon settled. The President is full of his military and naval exploits, and the Secretary of State is full of his diplomatic exploits. They are both very much interested in the news from Europe.

At half past nine o'clock the President, with his Private Secretary, Mr. Hay, walked over to Mr. Seward's, and after consultation there, he and Mr. Seward walked to the residence of Gen. McClellan, and remained there until midnight, discussing the rebellion.

It is a fact that the government is not alarmed about the Mason and Slidell affair. From the numerous despatches that have been received here to-day, there is a fear expressed among the people in different parts of the country that the government may be induced by some diplomatic to give the traitors up. In order to dispel this feeling, Mr. Hay will venture to say that the possibility of their surrender, under any circumstances, does not exist. The President is firm and immovable on this point.

The English newspaper sensation sent to the country in advance of the arrival of any official despatches, either from our Minister or the receipt of any communication by our government from Lord Lyons, is considered of very little account here. The government has too much on their hands to be disturbed by such influences. If it should turn out that we are likely to have another tilt with Great Britain, it is quite likely that France may also be interested in behalf of England. In that event Russia will interfere in behalf of the United States. If France, the Napoleon Waterloo France, is accepted by England, Russia will be accepted by the United States. The Emperors of these great empires can discuss the question while we are closing up a rebellion. They will eventually disagree of course. A mediation will be called in, probably the King of Italy, who will not decide the matter satisfactorily to both parties, and a war may result. By that time we shall have an army waiting for a fight, and it will then be a question whether we shall not prefer to take a hand in rather than to remain at peace with a people who have attempted to take advantage of our misfortunes.

Despatches received here to-day state that the rebels in the South are wild with excitement over the news received by the Europe, indicating that England has assumed a hostile attitude towards the United States. They regard it as an evidence of the intention of the European misdeeds of the seas to take up their quarrel, open their ports, and fight their battle. They decide themselves, as they have done from the beginning.

DEPARTURE OF SECRETARY CHASE FOR NEW YORK. Secretary Chase left here yesterday afternoon for New York, in consequence of a despatch received by him about half an hour before the starting of the last train. The despatch was in relation to the financial affairs of the government. The Secretary commenced only last week drawing upon the last fifty million subscription to the national fund, and has not yet drawn over ten per cent of the amount.

THE CONFISCATION OF REBEL PROPERTY AND THE COLONIZATION OF SLAVES. The House Committee on Military Affairs have before them a report and bill on the confiscation of property of rebels, and of employment and colonization of slaves, made by the chairman, Colonel F. B. Blair, based upon the President's Message. It declares null and void all sales, assignments and transfer of property of rebels and all interest therein, &c. It provides for the appointment of Commissioners for the States, at stated places, who have power to take summary action in all cases of confiscation; that persons owing service to the rebels being taken by the United States forces, coming to and claiming their protection, shall be declared forever free. It also empowers the President to acquire by purchase lands in South or Central America or the islands of the Gulf for their colonization, &c., giving to each family forty acres and to each head of a family eighty acres, and protection by the United States government; also that such persons shall be, under proper and humane supervision, employed and apprenticed on the confiscated estates of rebels, a proper account kept of their labor and the money paid over to the United States government in trust for them for their future transportation and for their subsistence in the meantime; also the law of apprenticeship for those over twenty-one years of age, five years; and under twenty-one years until the age of twenty-five.

It is the intention of the committee, if possible, to go to the House with a bill upon which the members are unanimous. This saves a minority report, and will naturally produce a moral effect upon the House that will tend to carry the bill through without successful opposition.

GENERAL PHELPS' PROCLAMATION DENOUNCED. A good deal of indignation is expressed that General Phelps, who was a Vermont Colonel in the three months' service, and stationed at Fort Monroe, should have so far forgotten his military duties as to issue a political proclamation after landing upon Ship Island, in the Gulf of Mexico, to the loyal citizens of the Southwest. The officers of the government, both civil and military—pro-slavery and anti-slavery, democrats and republicans—denounce the act as the most unwelcome and foolish act that has yet been proclaimed by any military officer.

GENERAL McCLELLAN'S MOVEMENTS. General McClellan sailed over to the Virginia side of the Potomac to-day, without waiting for either staff officers or escort. He passed over the Aqueduct bridge, and was quickly followed by the officers of the staff who were to attend him, among whom were Colonel Switzer, the Count de Paris and the Duc de Chartres.

General McClellan spent several hours this afternoon in General Porter's division. The visit being at the time most of the brigades were going through their daily drill, he was received with the usual military honors. While on Major's Hill a splendid photograph picture was taken

of the General and party jointly with General Morrell and staff. Subsequently, as the Fourth Michigan regiment, were going through their dress parade, the General noted their skillful precision of movement, and, calling out Col. Woodbury, personally complimented him.

THIS ACCIDENT TO GENERAL SUMNER. General Sumner is much easier than at any time since his accident. His aide—Captain Taylor, Sixth cavalry, Lieutenant Lawrence Kip, Third artillery, and Lieutenant S. Sumner—Fifth cavalry, have been unremitting in their attentions to him, and sat up with him all the first night following the disaster. On the following day his wife arrived, who has not left him since. To such an active man his confinement is very galling. And what troubles the Old Hero as much as his bruises is that he should be hindered by them from his horse. The horse stepped in a deep hole, and in recovering himself, jumped suddenly to one side, throwing the General and stopping on him. Fortunately no bones were broken, but he was fearfully bruised.

General Sumner has a fine division, and is constantly employed with his aids in looking after it.

CAPTURE OF A REBEL MAIL. Lieutenant C. Williams, of the brig Terry, captured a rebel mail on a ducking boat, and arrested the owners of the boat. The mail contained communications from spies.

THE BATTLE OF BULL RUN. In response to a resolution of the House, calling for information in regard to the disastrous movement of our troops at Bull Run, the Secretary of War has submitted the report of the Adjutant General, stating that the General-in-Chief of the army is of opinion on inquiry on the subject would at this time be injurious to the public service.

THE NEW REBEL BATTERIES ON THE POTOMAC. It is reported by the Leslie, which returned from the Potomac this morning, that the new rebel batteries are between Freeman Point and Shipping Point, on Timber branch. Their object is to command the entrance of Matamoras creek, to cut off our transports which supply General Sickles' brigade. Ten or twelve vessels ran the blockade, and were met by the Leslie on her downward trip last night.

THE TRANSMISSION OF SOLDIERS' PAY TO THEIR FAMILIES. In response to a resolution of the Senate the Secretary of War has transmitted the following report of the Paymaster General as to whether any aid, and what aid, is rendered to the pay of the army to enable volunteers to transmit home any part of their pay, and what additional facilities may be extended for that object, and to their families.

PAIDMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, Dec. 18, 1861. Sir:—I have the honor to return herewith the resolution of the Senate of the United States, of December 11, 1861, requesting the Secretary of War to communicate to the Senate, whether any and what aid is rendered by the pay of the army to enable volunteers to transmit home any part of their pay, and what additional facilities may be extended for that object, and to their families.

By a General Order from the War Department, Adjutant General's Office, dated September 19, 1861, a system of allowances, rules and regulations, to be used by the volunteers for the purpose of transmitting portions of their pay to their homes, for or expense to them. This system, which is carried out, will, it is believed, afford all the facilities required.

A copy of the General Order, No. 81, current series, is herewith transmitted, exhibiting the plan adopted. There is one point, however, to which attention is respectfully called. Under existing laws a soldier has a prior claim on the pay of the army before the amount of the bounty is paid to the soldier, and the bounty is paid to the soldier. The fact that the army was in the rebel States was sufficient. He thought that generally must take the natural result of the bounty, which was to be paid to the soldier, for emancipation in confiscation. They had nothing to do with these questions in the Senate, which were kept up on any subject.

Mr. Sumner's resolution was then agreed to. PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, Dec. 18, 1861. To Hon. SENATOR CAMDEN, Secretary of War.

GENERAL LANE'S APPOINTMENT. General James H. Lane, of Kansas, has been tendered the position of Brigadier General by the President. He will accept it as soon as he can lay before the Judiciary Committee of the Senate additional evidence vindicating his right to a seat in that body, which is now contested. His command will embrace all the troops in Kansas.

THE TRIAL OF COL. HALSTED. The trial of Colonel Halsted, of the First New Jersey cavalry, in court martial to-day, was postponed on account of the absence of government witnesses.

DEFEAT OF THE HOMESTEAD BILL. The Homestead bill of Mr. Foster, of Wisconsin, was defeated to-day on the motion of Mr. Morgan, of Vermont, in his anxiety to save his own bill donating public lands to the several States and Territories for the establishment of colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts. Although not directly antagonistic, the passage of one of these bills would defeat the other, and under existing circumstances both may be regarded as killed. That of Mr. Foster was designed to carry out one of the most prominent features of the Chicago platform. In this bill, as before, there are some new features. It extends the benefit of the Homestead bill to all who perform military service under the proclamation of the President of the 15th of April last, or any act of Congress during the existing war, and also to all militia volunteers or State troops of any State or Territory performing service in aid of the federal government during the same period, and to teachers and wagon masters employed under competent authority in military service, and gives the same preference, in lieu of prize money and extra pay, to persons performing service in the army or navy of the United States during the war or any foreign war occurring within the period. In lieu of bounty lands it gives to three months volunteers of all grades the free homestead and thirty dollars in money, and to six months volunteers one hundred dollars in addition to the homestead. In all cases being held as a prisoner of war to be reckoned as actual service.

THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE PENSION BILL. The bill reported from the House Committee of Ways and Means for the payment of invalid and other pensions of the United States, for the year ending June 30, 1861, appropriates one million one hundred and fifty thousand six hundred dollars for that purpose.

THE PAY OF THE FORCES OF THE WESTERN MILITARY DEPARTMENT. The bill reported by Colonel Blair from the House Military Committee, to secure officers and men actually employed in the Western Military Department or Department of Missouri, their pay, bounty and pension, is intended to authorize the payment to those who were in service with General Fremont, but were not recognized by the War Department as in any way in the service of the government.

THE CONSULAR AND DIPLOMATIC APPROPRIATION BILL. The bill reported by the Ways and Means Committee for consular and diplomatic expenses for the year ending June 30, 1863, and additional appropriations for the year ending June 30, 1862, appropriates \$1,154,277 92.

THE CLAIM OF MR. FOSTER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO A SEAT IN THE HOUSE. The objection of the claim of Mr. Foster, of North Carolina, to a seat in the House of Representatives is regarded as a just rebuke of an attempt to gain a seat in that body by taking advantage of the peculiar condition of public affairs without having been chosen by any number of citizens anywhere to represent them.

THE AFFAIR OF MESSRS. POKEE AND CONWAY—A FIGHT EXPECTED. The affair of Messrs. Pokee and Conway is still undecided. It is believed now that it will culminate in a street fight whenever they meet.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE TREASURY CLERKS. The Treasury Department will pay the clerk before Christmas so much of their balances as may be due in advance of the customary pay day at the end of the month.

DEPARTURE OF MR. VAN WYCK. Representative Van Wyck, who returned yesterday from a visit home on account of sickness in his family, has again left the city by reason of the continued illness of his father.

SEIZURE OF ARMS IN ENGLAND. A letter received here to-day from a merchant firm in Liverpool, which had made a large shipment of arms to the United States, states that the arms have been taken from the vessels. Sixty thousand that were to be shipped have been retained. No more will be permitted to be shipped.

REMARKS TO MR. WRIGHT. A band of one of the Pennsylvania regiments assembled Mr. Wright, representative in Congress from the Scranton district of that State, to-night. About fifty people, besides members of the band, were present. Mr. Wright made a speech, informing his hearers that the war is for the perpetration of slavery, and not for the abolition; that all the rest of the world except Russia and the United States is of no sort of consequence; that France, England, Spain, Prussia, &c., can be easily whipped, and that the people may therefore rest quiet.

THE ABUSES OF THE SUTLERS. The Government Contract Investigating Committee will to-morrow commence their inquiries into the alleged abuses conducted with the sutlerships.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1861.

Mr. TAYLOR, (rep. of N. J.), presented a petition for the establishment of an army on Burlington Island, New Jersey.

Mr. THURMONT, (rep. of Ill.), presented a petition of several hundred citizens of St. Louis, laborers on the public works, asking that the several amounts due them be paid.

Mr. DODD, (rep. of Wis.), presented several petitions for the emancipation of slaves.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep. of Mass.), presented a petition from the citizens of Vermont for the repeal of the Fugitive Slave law.

Mr. SAMPSON, (opp. of Del.), offered a resolution asking the Secretary of War to furnish the Senate a copy of the proclamation of General Phelps to the loyal citizens of the Southwest, and by what authority it was made.

Mr. BUCK introduced a bill for the establishment of an Army on Burlington Heights.

Mr. DODD introduced a bill for the collection of direct taxes in the insurrectionary districts. It provides for taking the land in such districts to pay the direct tax; that the President shall, before the 22d of February next, make a proclamation specifying what districts are in such insurrection, the owners to have power of redemption.

Mr. SUMNER offered a resolution that Truston, now a traitor to the United States, be expelled from the Senate. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. WISDOM, (rep. of Mass.), offered a resolution that the Military Committee be instructed to inquire if any legislation was necessary to restrict the evils which now exist in the condition and management of the military hospitals. Agreed to.

Mr. FOSTER, (rep. of Conn.), moved to take up the case of the contested seat of the Senator from Kansas (Gen. Lane). The report of the Judiciary is that Mr. Stanton is entitled to the seat.

Mr. LANE, of Kansas, asked that a memorial be read, also an order from the War Department. He said the memorial could not be read before the correct copy of the paper called an appointment.

Mr. SUMNER, of Mass., said that the case should be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. COLMAN, (rep. of Vt.), moved that the subject be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

After some further discussion the subject was recommitted to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE ORDER TO MAJOR GENERAL HALL. A communication was received from the War Department, transmitting the orders given Major General Hall.

THE ARMY AND THE SURRENDER OF FUGITIVE SLAVES. Mr. SUMNER, of Mass., moved to take up the case of the contested seat of the Senator from Kansas (Gen. Lane). The report of the Judiciary is that Mr. Stanton is entitled to the seat.

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IMPORTANT FROM KENTUCKY.

Gen. Buell's Report of the Recent Fight—Position of the Hostile Forces—A Brilliant Victory for the Union Troops.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1861.

Gen. Buell has telegraphed to headquarters the following—

LOUISVILLE, December 18, 1861. TO MAJOR GENERAL MCCLELLAN—

McClellan's division is at Mumfordsville; Gen. Mitchell at Bacon's creek. Zollicoffer is either retreating across the Cumberland river or is preparing to do so at the approach of any superior force.

Gen. McCook reported that the rebels attacked our pickets in front of the railroad bridge at two o'clock to-day. The picket consisted of four companies of the Third Indiana, Colonel Willich, under Lieutenant Colonel Van Hook. Their forces consisted of one regiment of Texas Rangers, two regiments of infantry, and one battery of six guns. Our loss was Lieutenant Saxe and eight enlisted men killed and wounded. The rebel loss was thirty-three killed, including the Texas Rangers, and about fifty wounded. The rebels retreated ignominiously.

D. C. BUELL, Brigadier General, &c.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 18, 1861. The recent Mumfordsville engagement, considering the disproportion of numbers, proves the most brilliant Union victory yet achieved. Four companies, of about 500 men, of Col. Wallace's regiment, led by the Lieutenant Colonel, drove back over 3,000 rebel cavalry, artillery and infantry. They were first attacked by a regiment of Texas cavalry, whom they repulsed and followed, when they were drawn into ambush and fired at from all sides by rebel infantry. The Unionists returned the fire vigorously, and stood their ground until the rebels fell back, leaving all their dead and most of their wounded on the field. No reinforcements reached Van Hook's (Union) command, as reported yesterday, until after the engagement was over. How's Louisville letter.

Supported the Unionists from the north side of Green river, firing at very long range from rifle cannon. Four other companies were on the south side of the river, but engaged as pickets a mile and a quarter distant from the action.

Among the Unionists killed were Lieutenant Saxe, of Cincinnati, who killed eight men with two revolvers, but was finally killed, receiving nine bullets from the rebels. Also among the killed were Henry Brown, Richard Wharf, Frederick Shomaker, John Shomaker and Peter Smith, all of Cincinnati. Smith's remains go to Cincinnati to-morrow.

Of the Texas Rangers sixty-two were killed, besides Col. Terry. The number of wounded is unknown. It is supposed to be large. The federal forces buried their dead. Fourteen of the rebels were found dead on the field, and three rebels were taken prisoner. The rebels lost a colonel, captain and lieutenant.

The Union forces on the south side of Green river have been considerably augmented, but the report of a general crossing southward yesterday is untrue, and would not take place until the day after to-morrow, on which a large force is engaged, is reconstructed.

The rebels sent a flag of truce to-day, asking permission to enter their alleged abandoned camp. The Somerset Postmaster writes, 17th, that Zollicoffer, with 7,000 men, had crossed the Cumberland river and were retreating.

The Thirty-first Ohio and Second East Tennessee regiments had arrived there, making a force about equal to Zollicoffer's.

THE REBELS PREPARING TO CROSS THE RIVER IN FORCE—Troops Sent to Oppose the Enemy—An Engagement Reported, &c.

FRANKFORT, Dec. 18, 1861. A gentleman who arrived from Williamsburg, Va. last night reports that Jackson's brigade has been largely increased, and is supposed to amount to 9,000 men, at Falling Waters.

At nine P. M., fifty-one wagons belonging to the rebels were backed down to the shore, and a boat from each quickly launched into the river. Two of the boats, which were of large size, were for the transportation of Jackson's artillery.

At this juncture our informant left for General Banks' headquarters.

Our informant thinks the object of Jackson is to cross over, make a dash on Williamsport, and secure the star and arms there. He informed Colonel Leonard of all that was transpiring, and thinks the latter had taken full precautions to prevent it, by removing the stores, &c., to a more secure place, and that he also took steps to concentrate all his available force to prevent the passage of the river.

Our informant passed the Fifth Connecticut regiment en route for Williamsport, two miles northwest of Boonsboro, sixteen miles from Williamsport, and last night, they three quarters of a mile in the rear of the Connecticut camp.

Later intelligence states that the battery reached Williamsport at six A. M. this morning, having passed the Connecticut regiment on the route.

Our informant met at 10 A. M., yesterday, a deserter from Jackson's brigade, a resident of Rappahannock county, Virginia, who said Jackson had not less than 15,000 men, that is considered an exaggeration by our informant, who had for an hour a good view of Jackson's whole command.

The deserter stated that Jackson's regulars, including a Georgia regiment which had just joined him, were determined to go to the "devil" with their commander, but the militia were equally as obstinate in refusing to cross the river.

Jackson was determined to cross the Potomac this morning.

On receipt of this intelligence by Gen. Banks, orders were issued to the Third brigade, Gen. Williams commanding, to be prepared to perform a forced march to Williamsport at a moment's notice; but up to ten o'clock this morning the brigade had not moved, but was in readiness to leave at any time.

It is reported on the street that one regiment only is about to move, which indicates that Jackson has not sufficient strength to execute his threat, but has probably tried the experiment and met with a check.

Firing was heard at six o'clock, the hour at which Best's battery had probably reached the river opposite Falling Waters this morning, and a throng of other reports, but nothing authentic. There was considerable excitement here. The stage left at six A. M.

Partial Destruction by Fire of the Town of Platte City, Mo.

Platte City, Mo., December 17, 1861. A portion of the town of Platte City, Mo., including Court House and Post Office, were destroyed by fire last night. It was set on fire about one o'clock by some rebels, but suppressed by some troops under Colonel Morgan. At four o'clock it was again successfully fired. The county records were saved, but the contents and office were destroyed. Many arrests were made, including some of S. J. Gordon's guerrilla band and one of Price's captains.

Return of Ex-President Miramon to this City.

The ex-President of Mexico, General Miguel Miramon, arrived in this city yesterday. He is accompanied by his wife and five gentlemen of his staff. The distinguished party arrived in this country from Europe by the steamship Europa, and came on to this city by the early train yesterday morning. They are occupying apartments at the Metropolitan Hotel, where they will, it is expected, remain for about two weeks. The return of Ex-President Miramon to this city will doubtless create much surprise among all parties. It was at one time reported, and at the same time very generally believed, that he would leave Europe on board one of the war vessels composing the Anglo-Spanish expedition, which is now on its way to Mexico. What reasons decided him to return to this city we are at present unable to state, but from the general's well known ability and far seeing sagacity we are convinced that his movements are all the result of mature deliberation. He will sail for Havana in about two weeks, and thence proceed to join the expedition of Vera Cruz. The following are the names of the gentlemen of his staff who accompanied him from Europe: Colonel Carlos Miramon, Colonel De Manuel Gual, Colonel Garcia, Colonel Garcia, Colonel Garcia.

Dr. Daniel Yallabie, his private secretary.

The Famine in Ireland.

GENEROUS CONDUCT ON THE PART OF OUR SOLDIERS.

Upon the arrival of the news of the famine in Ireland, the Mount regiment of this city, with a noble generosity, well worthy of imitation by all, at once started a subscription list, which was signed by nearly every member of the regiment, although quite a number are not of Irish birth, each one giving whatever he could afford. We are glad to see a move of this kind, and it should be imitated by all of the regiments, without regard to nationality. If each one only contributed a small sum, when joined together it would make a very handsome amount and be the means of relieving such want.

WINTER GARDEN.—This evening the new piece of "The Ladies of Killarney; or, the Heir of Glenariff," which has been for some time in preparation, and for which some very beautiful scenery is said to have been painted, will be produced at this establishment. Mrs. Williams plays a leading part in the piece, and Mr. Williams will present himself in the double role of author and actor. Colonel Mulligan and his lady have accepted an invitation to be present, and will be accompanied by the Committee of the Common Council.

SENATE TO MAJOR NEWS.—On Tuesday night a parade was performed in front of the residence of Major Nevins, of the Seventh regiment, New York State Militia (National Guard), by the full band of that regiment, in honor of the recent promotion of that officer to his present rank. Major Nevins was formerly Captain of Company C, and was promoted to the majority in the place of Alexander Thaler, also promoted to the Lieutenant Colonel of the Sixty-fifth New York Volunteers (Colonel Cochrane's Chasseurs). Major Nevins' residence is on Twenty-third street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues.

LECTURE BY GENERAL ANDERSON'S BROTHER.—Mr. Charles Anderson, brother of General Anderson, whose wonderful escape from Texas was witnessed some time since, will deliver an address at the Cooper Institute on Saturday night next. The interest excited in his narrative induced a number of gentlemen to ask him to relate his adventures in the form of a lecture, which he has kindly consented to do. No charge will be made for admission.

KIRBY'S GARDEN.—Mr. Ullman opens his theatre on Monday next for a grand farewell series of the Hermann performances. The house has been entirely remodelled and redecorated by its proprietor since the spring.

WALLACE'S THEATRE.—A new drama, in three acts, entitled "Up the Hills," will be produced at this house to-night. The scenery is said to be very beautiful, and the music composed for it by Mr. Stoppel will, it is said, also be found to have its attractions.

MR. GUSTAVUS GRAY'S CONCERT.—To-night the grand annual concert of this gentleman comes off at Irving Hall. The programme is a most attractive one.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Detention of the Africa and the Mails for Europe Till This Afternoon, &c.

The Cunard steamship Africa, Captain Shannon, has been detained by order of the British Minister at Washington, and will not leave this port till this (Thursday) afternoon, for Liverpool.

The regular mails for Europe will close in this city at half past eleven o'clock this morning, but a supplementary mail will be made up to-day.

THE EUROPEAN EDITION OF THE HERALD to be published this morning, will contain details of the effect of the warlike news from England, full particulars of the Terrific Conflagration at Charleston, S. C., on the 11th and 12th inst., by which Banks, Hotels, Churches, Theatres, Stores, Saloons, Warehouses, Cannon and Shell Factories and Dwelling Houses amounting in value to Seven Millions of Dollars, were laid in ruins, illustrated with a Map of the City, showing the Burned District, and a List of the Names of the sufferers, as far as it has been possible to ascertain them. It will also contain a variety of interesting matter received by mail and telegraph during the previous week and up to the hour of publication.

Samson Low, Son & Co., No. 47 Ludgate Hill, London, England, will receive advertisements and subscriptions for the Herald.

Single copies, in wrappers, six cents.

Official Drawings of Murray, Eddy & Co.'s Lottery and Miscellaneous Lotteries.

Extra Class 99—December 18, 1861. 1, 9, 25, 31, 35, 39, 43, 47, 51, 55, 59, 63, 67, 71, 75, 79, 83, 87, 91, 95, 99. 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168,